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COVID-19 IN COLORADO

Spread of virus idles ski resorts

Governor issues executive order suspending downhill operations for one week

By Sam Tabachnik
The Denver Post

All North American ski mountains operated by the continent's biggest resort companies, Vail Resorts and Alterra Mountain Company, will close Sunday — a dramatic move that comes just days after resorts vowed to remain open as the coronavirus spreads through the state.

Vail Resorts — which owns Vail Ski Resort, Beaver Creek Resort, Breckenridge Ski Resort, Keystone Resort and Crested Butte Mountain Resort in Colorado — said it will re-evaluate in a week to determine whether its mountains would reopen before the end of the season.

The announcements came shortly before Gov. Jared Polis on Saturday evening issued an executive order suspending all downhill skiing operations for one week.

"We have made the difficult decision to suspend the operations of all our North American moun-

SKI AREAS » 16A

24 NEW CASES IN STATE

Restrictions on visiting nursing homes

By Sam Tabachnik
The Denver Post

Colorado on Saturday topped 100 positive cases of the novel coronavirus as the governor announced restrictions on visiting nursing homes and other assisted living facilities to protect the state's most vulnerable population.

The state confirmed 24 new cases of COVID-19 — the contagious respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus — on Saturday, with so many people lining up at Denver's drive-through testing facility that the city shut down operations an hour early.

Meanwhile, El Paso County health officials sounded the alarm over any seniors who may have played in the same bridge game as

COLORADO » 16A

COLORADO LEGISLATURE

Business divide on family leave

Employees want the paid benefit, but small firms worry about the details: What will it cost? Who will provide it? How do I cover for the worker?

Anna Zoe, center, gives instruction to employees Jose Ruiz, left, Pepe Ordaz and Fatima Ordaz at the Zoe Ma Ma restaurant in Denver. Edwin Zoe, who owns the business with his mother, Anna, is a passionate supporter of paid family leave. About 19% of U.S. workers had a paid leave benefit last year, up from just 10% in 2010. *AAron Ontiveroz, The Denver Post*

Mowa Haile, the president and CEO of Sky Blue Builders in Aurora, is worried about the financial impact paid family leave would have on his business and whether it would take away his staffing flexibility. *Andy Cross, The Denver Post*

By Aldo Svaldi and Joe Rubino
The Denver Post

Mowa Haile, president and CEO of Sky Blue Builders in Aurora, has a lot of worries on his plate right now, the latest being the spread of the novel coronavirus, the health impact on his employees and the slowdown in construction work it could trigger.

Supporters of paid family and medical leave, which is under consideration in Colorado, argue that the current coronavirus pandemic makes a strong argument for why paid leave is needed.

"It is a valuable benefit for people, and there is no evidence that people are abusing it," said Elise Gould, a senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute.

Gould argues that paid leave would allow workers to handle the two weeks required to get over a coronavirus infection, or to care for loved ones who might fall ill, or watch children if schools are closed.

LEAVE » 18A

DENVER & THE WEST
INMATES CAN'T KEEP DISTANCE
Colorado's prisons and jails face a unique problem with coronavirus guidelines: They don't allow hand sanitizer, and going home isn't an option. »1B

Legislature goes on break: The General Assembly votes to interrupt its current session until at least March 30. »1B

PERSPECTIVE
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HAITI
Denver Post photographer Helen H. Richardson went to Haiti with a Boulder-based nonprofit helping to improve health care in the struggling nation. »1D

A limit of two: Columnist Vincent Carroll says it's time for Denver to change its out-of-date rule on how many unrelated adults can live in a house. »1D

LIFE & CULTURE
BAIRD THE TOAST OF BOULDER
"Top Chef" finalist Carrie Baird has gone out on her own. She is serving showstopping fancy toast and more at Rose's Classic Americana in Boulder. »1E

Travel: A family experiences New Zealand's rugged charms during an eight-day camper van adventure. »8E

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